

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending, claims 1, 7-12, 14-17, and 21-23 stand rejected, and claims 2-6, 13, 18-20, and 24-26 have been objected to. Applicants cordially thank the Examiner for indication of the allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-6, 13, 18-20, and 24-26, but for their dependence on rejected claims. Claims 1, 9-11, 16, and 22 have been amended, leaving claims 1-26 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment and accompanying remarks. No new matter has been added.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a), as the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner states that therefore, the terminal connector projecting outwardly from the circuit breaker molded case must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

Independent claims 1, 16, and 22 have been amended deleting the language -- projecting outwardly from -- and replaced with -- disposed in --. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Specification

The disclosure stands objected to because the Examiner correctly states that in paragraph 20, "U.S. Patent Application Number" should be corrected as "U.S. Patent Number". The specification has been amended to reflect the appropriate correction as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection thereto be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §112

Claims 9-12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

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which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Regarding claims 9-11, the Examiner correctly points out that there is no antecedent basis for "said back wall" and that it appears that Applicant intended claims 9-11 to depend upon claim 2. Regarding claim 10, the Examiner correctly points out that there is no antecedent basis for "said sidewalls." Claims 9-11 have been amended to depend from claim 2 as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 9-11 and 13 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 7, 14-16, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,624,375] in view of Ferree et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,172,586]. Applicants respectfully traverses.

Regarding claims 1, 7, 14, 16 and 21-22, the Examiner alleges that Leone et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the insulator being configured to be used with a plurality of different field installable terminal connectors. The Examiner alleges that Ferree et al. disclose a terminal barrier [140] for a multiphase circuit breaker [figure 1] able to accommodate various types of terminal connectors [column 9, lines 11- 22].

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the barrier of Leone et al. to accommodate different types of terminal connectors, as suggested by Ferree et al., for the purpose of enabling the barrier to be used with a plurality of types of breakers.

It is respectfully submitted that Leone et al. disclose with reference to Figures 2-4 thereof a barrier 80 defined by a body 82 disposed on a top face defining the terminal connector of lug 100 and a second end disposed on a back wall defining the terminal connector of lug 100. Further, Leone et al. disclose a middle portion 92 between the first end 84 and the second end 88 defining a concave space 94 with an opening 96, 98 at each end 84, 88 of the middle portion 92, wherein the body 82 is mounted in the housing 18, of the circuit breaker 10. Col. 6, lines 7-11. The concave space 94 is configured to receive

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the [terminal screw of] wire lug 100. Col. 6, lines 13-14, and FIGS. 2-4. The middle portion 92 can be configured to direct arc gases around and away from the [terminal screw of] wire lug 100 (See FIG. 4). The cylindrical shaped middle portion 92 of the body 82 which defines the concave space 94 directs the gases generated in the arc chamber 24 as the circuit breaker 10 operates under short circuit conditions. Col. 6, lines 15-20.

Furthermore, Leone et al. disclose in Figure 3 that opposing side faces extending from opposing outboard edges defining the top face top face defining the terminal connector of lug 100 directly face the molded circuit breaker 18 having no other insulator therebetween. In addition, Leone et al. do not disclose a bottom wall disposed at or facing a bottom face opposite the top face defining the terminal connector of lug 100. See Figure 2 and 4.

Leone et al. do not teach or suggest, terminal connectors disposed around and attached to said load and line straps, said terminal connectors disposed in said circuit breaker molded case, said terminal connectors adapted for connection with one of said electrical circuit and said load; and a cover arranged over said line or said load straps electrically-isolating said line or load straps, said cover discrete from said molded case disposed around four discrete faces defining said terminal connector, said cover trapped into said circuit breaker molded case by attachment of said terminal connector to a respective strap, said cover being configured to be used with a plurality of different field installable terminal connectors, as in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claims 16 and 22.

Thus claims 1, 16, and 22, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 2-15, 17-21, and 23-24, define over Leone et al. in view of Ferree et al.

Moreover, it is respectfully noted using the doctrine of "claim differentiation" that independent claims 1, 16, and 22 recite "disposing said terminal connector around said strap terminal" while respective dependent claims 4, 20, and 26, depending from claims 1, 16, and 22, respectively, recite "a terminal screw extending through said terminal

connector". Thus, the "terminal screw" is different than the "terminal connector" as claimed and negates construing the terminal screw extending from of lug 100 in Leone et al. with a "terminal connector" as claimed.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner mischaracterizes the teachings of Ferree in reliance of an omnibus clause [i.e., Col. 9, lines 11-22] therein for an obviousness rejection. Moreover, Ferree et al. merely disclose with respect to Col. 9, lines 11-22 that "different shapes can be utilized for the terminal connector [144]". There is no teaching or suggestion in Ferree et al. disclosing, said insulator being configured to be used with a plurality of different field installable terminal connectors, as in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claims 16 and 22.

Thus claims 1, 16, and 22, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 2-15, 17-21, and 23-24, define over Leone et al. in view of Ferree et al.

Regarding claim 15, the Examiner alleges that Leone et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the insulator being used in a multiphase breaker, but that Ferree et al. disclose the use of terminal barriers in multiphase breakers.

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the insulator design could have been incorporated in a multiphase breaker, as suggested by Ferree et al., for the purpose of protecting all of the phases.

It is respectfully pointed out that claim 15 depends from claim 1, which is submitted as defining over Leone et al. as discussed above. Furthermore, use of terminal barriers in a multiphase breaker, as suggested by Ferree et al., does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Leone et al.

Claims 8, 17 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone et al., as modified, as applied to claims 1, 16 and 22 above, and in further in view of Arnold et al. [U.S. Patent No. 4,965,418]. Applicants respectfully traverse.

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The Examiner alleges that Leone et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the use of a gasket disposed over the strap terminal intermediate the case and insulator, but that Arnold et al. disclose the use of a gasket [56] mounted about a strap terminal [15] in a multiphase breaker [figure 5].

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a gasket between the insulator and case wall of Leone et al., as modified, for the purpose of protecting against arcing and gas leakage from the breaker.

It is respectfully pointed out that claims 8, 17 and 23 depends from claims 1, 16, and 22, respectfully, which are submitted as defining over Leone et al. in view of Ferree et al. as discussed above. Furthermore, use of a gasket between the insulator and case wall of Leone et al., as modified, does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Leone et al.

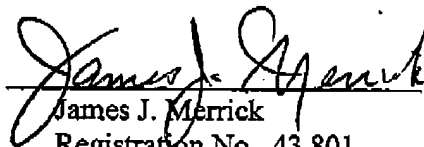
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Conclusion

In the event the Examiner has any queries regarding the presently submitted response, the undersigned respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Response, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by the office of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cantor Colburn LLP

By



James J. Merrick
Registration No. 43,801
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 23413

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